Navy, the Coast Guard and other security agencies would be called upon to play a more vigilant role, as these were vulnerable to inimical interests:

(b) whether a ship containing arms was seized in February, 2007;

(c) whether there have been reports of attempts to sneak in contraband through coastal lanes;

(d) the details of other steps Government have taken; and

(e) whether such steps have not, in any way, been affecting trade that registered a potential growth through sea-lanes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The security and surveillance apparatus in India's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone has been enhanced substantially over the years. The improvement of such an apparatus, based on felt needs is an on-going process.

(b) Yes, Sir. In February 2007, a fishing vessel carrying arms, ammunitions and explosives was seized by the Indian Coast Guard in Palk Bay.

(c) There are no specific reports with the Indian Navy or the Coast Guard regarding landing of contraband in large scale and in an organized manner through coastal lanes. However, incidents of seizure of contraband, if detected, are dealt with as per law.

(d) The Indian Navy has an elaborate arrangement to thwart threats at sea. Such measures are regularly updated in coordination with Indian Coast Guard and other central as well as local agencies.

(e) No, Sir.

Bogus warrant order for train travel

†1692. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any matter of bogus warrant-orders being printed for travelling in trains, has been brought to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There are no reports with the Government regarding printing of bogus warrant orders. One case of purported use of unauthorized Military warrants by five persons including one serviceman and four civilians in 2779 UP Goa Express on 4th August, 2006 was reported by Railway authorities. A court of enquiry has been ordered in the matter.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.